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NEWS RELEASE

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LATEST CRIPA REPORT SHOWS CONTINUED PROGRESS
HIGH RATINGS MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL OF PROVISIONS

PHOENIX – A report monitoring six months' progress at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) has found that the agency has made tremendous advancement in improving services it provides to youth offenders.

This is the third of six total semi-annual evaluation reports from consultants hired to assess the Department's compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the State of Arizona. The agreement was signed in September 2004 in response to a Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) investigation that began in June 2002.

Of particular significance is that the Department achieved substantial compliance in 19 out of 136 reporting areas for three consecutive reporting periods. The substantial compliance rating is the highest rating given by federal consultants.

As a result, the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections will request that the U.S. Department of Justice discontinue formal monitoring in these identified areas – a provision outlined in the CRIPA Agreement.

Another 47 measures received two consecutive substantial compliance ratings and are poised to be released from the Agreement if this rating is achieved during the next reporting period.

The latest report articulates improvements in key areas at all three juvenile correctional facilities covered under the Agreement. Highlights include: improvement in the areas of Education, Youth Grievances, Medical Services, Quality Assurance, and Inspections & Investigations.

In addition, all ADJC schools have been accredited by North Central Association, and staff and youth report facilities are safe.

According to lead federal consultant Russ Van Vleet, "The Department has made huge strides in a short amount of time. The report is positive."

ADJC Director Michael Branham states, "I am very proud of our progress, particularly in the areas of Education and Medical and Mental Health. Our continued efforts in making our facilities safe will affect public trust and confidence. My sincere appreciation is extended to the Executive Leadership and staff of ADJC."

The entire report can be viewed on the ADJC public website @ www.azdjc.gov

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